Application No.: 09/901,317   Attorney Docket No.: 2000-0280-CON
Art Unit: 2143

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of ~~claim 2~~ serving content in a packet-switched network comprising:

choosing from a plurality of content distribution networks which content distribution network will respond to a content request from a client;

redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network so that the content request will be served by the chosen content distribution network, wherein

the content distribution network is chosen based, at least partly, on a determination of which of the plurality of content distribution networks is closer to the client.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 3 wherein the content distribution network is chosen based, at least partly, on a measurement of load on the content distribution networks.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the content distribution network is chosen only if the measured load on the content distribution network does not exceed a predetermined capacity reserved on the content distribution network.

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6.   (Currently Amended) [CONVOLUTED URLS] The method of claim [[1]] 3
wherein the content to be served by the chosen content distribution network comprises
content embedded in a document to be served to the client and wherein the step of
redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network further comprises the
step of rewriting references to the embedded content before serving the document to
the client.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the reference to the embedded
content is rewritten to point to a server in the chosen content distribution network.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the reference to the embedded
content is rewritten to point to a domain name served by the content distribution
network.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the reference to the
embedded content is rewritten so that the an original reference may be readily parsed
from a corresponding one of the rewritten reference references.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the chosen content
distribution network can utilize utilizes the corresponding one of the rewritten
references reference to obtain the embedded content if the chosen content distribution
network does not have an up-to-date copy of the embedded content in a cache.

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11.   (Currently Amended) [DNS OUTSOURCING] The method of claim [[1]] 5

wherein the step of redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network

further comprises the step of having resolving the domain name system queries

resolve to content served by the chosen content distribution network.

12.   (Currently Amended) [A RECORD REDIRECTION] The method of claim 11

wherein further comprising answering the domain name system queries are answered

with a network address of content served by the chosen content distribution network.

13.   (Currently Amended) [NS RECORD REDIRECTION] The method of claim

11 wherein further comprising answering the domain name system queries are

answered with a network address of a domain name system server responsible for the

chosen content distribution network.

14.   (Currently Amended) [CNAME REDIRECTION] The method of claim 11

wherein further comprising answering domain name system queries are answered

with a domain name of content served by the chosen content distribution network.

15.   (Currently Amended) [TRIANGULATION] The method of claim 11 wherein

further comprising forwarding the domain name system queries are forwarded to a

domain name server responsible for the chosen content distribution network and

which directly answers the domain name system query queries.

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16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 5, wherein the content

distribution network serves the content request from a local cache and wherein the

content distribution network has access to a second copy of the content if there is a

cache miss.

17.   (Currently Amended) [TABLE-DRIVEN DISAMBIGUATION] The method

of claim 16, wherein the content distribution network has includes a table of

associations between references to content served by the content distribution network

and references to a second copy of the content served from elsewhere in the network.

18.   (Currently Amended) [SEMANTIC MAPPING DISAMBIGUATION] The

method of claim 16 wherein the content distribution network can transform

transforms references to content served by the content distribution network into

second references to a second copy of the content served from elsewhere in the

network.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Currently Amended) The brokering domain name server of claim [[19]] 22

wherein the predetermined policy reflects a chosen content distribution network and

redirection mechanism for each of a plurality of regions of client network addresses.

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21.   (Currently Amended) The brokering domain server of claim [[19]] 22

wherein the policy module further comprises an interface to information received

from the plurality of content distribution networks and wherein the policy module

modifies the predetermined policy in response to the information.

22.   (Currently Amended) The A brokering domain server of claim 21comprising:

        a domain name system engine which is capable of answering domain name

system queries from a client; and

        a policy module which directs the domain name system engine to answer the

domain name system queries in accordance with a predetermined policy which

resolves a domain name to a server in a content distribution network chosen from a

plurality of content distribution networks, wherein:

        the policy module further comprises an interface to information received from

the plurality of content distribution networks and wherein the policy module modifies

the predetermined policy in response to the information, and

        the information further comprises load information and wherein the

predetermined policy reflects capacity reserved on each of the plurality of content

distribution networks.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Currently Amended) A method of redirecting content requests between

content distribution networks, comprising the steps of:

        receiving a request for a document which contains one or more embedded

content references;

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retrieving the document;

choosing one out of a plurality of content distribution networks to serve the embedded content;

rewriting the document so that the embedded content references point to content stored at the chosen content distribution network; and

transmitting the rewritten document.

25.   (New) A system comprising:

means for choosing a content distribution network from a plurality of content distribution networks for responding to a content request from a client; and

means for redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network so that the content request will be served by the chosen content distribution network, wherein

the means for choosing a content distribution network from a plurality of content distribution networks for responding to a content request from a client is configured to choose a content distribution network only if a measured load of the content distribution network does not exceed a predetermined capacity reserved on the content distribution network.

26.   (New) The system of claim 25, wherein:

the content to be served by the chosen distribution network comprises content embedded in a document to be served to the client, and

the means for redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network so that the content request will be served by the chosen content distribution network further comprises:

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means for rewriting references to the embedded content before serving

the document to the client.

27.   (New) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

means for serving content from a local cache; and

means for serving content from a second copy of the content when the means

for serving content from a local cache experiences a cache miss.

28.   (New) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

means for transforming references to content served by the content distribution

network into second references to the second copy of the content served from

elsewhere in the network.

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